

Appin. No. 09/888,482
Amendment dated December 29, 2004
Reply to Office Action of October 5, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The October 5, 2004 Office Action and the Examiner's comments have been carefully considered. In response, the title is amended, claims are cancelled, amended and added, and remarks are set forth below in a sincere effort to place the present application in form for allowance. The amendments are supported by the application as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter is added.

TITLE

In the Office Action the title of the invention is objected to as not being descriptive. In response, the title is amended in a sincere effort to be more clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. If, even in view of the amendment of the title, the Examiner maintains the objection to the title, the Examiner is respectfully requested to set forth in the next Patent Office communication a proposed title for consideration by the Applicant.

In view of the amendment of the title, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the title are respectfully requested.

Appln. No. 09/888,482
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PRIOR ART REJECTIONS AND ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

In the Office Action claims 1, 2, 11, 12 and 21 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over USP 6,097,852 (Yamamoto) in view of USP 6,650,441 (Horigome et al.).

The Examiner's indication that claims 3-10, 13-20 and 22-29 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, is acknowledged and appreciated.

In response, claim 3 is cancelled and limitations from claim 3 are incorporated into claim 1 to place claim 1 in condition for allowance. In view of the cancellation of claim 3, the dependency of claim 4 has been changed from "3" to -- 1 --.

Claim 11 is amended to include limitations from claim 13 to place claim 11 in form for allowance. Accordingly, claim 13 has been cancelled and the dependency of claim 14 has been changed from "13" to -- 11 --.

Claim 21 is amended to include limitations from claim 22. Claim 22 is cancelled and the dependency of claim 24 has been changed from "22" to -- 21 --.

Appln. No. 09/888,482
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In view of the foregoing amendments, claims 1, 2, 4-12, 14-21 and 23-29 are in form for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

NEW CLAIMS

New claims 30-43 are added to the present application. Claims 30-43 are patentable over the cited references for reasons, inter alia, set forth below.

In the present invention claimed in new claims 30 and 37, magnification is set to determine a part of the document whose image is enlarged. At this time, the start time of capture is controlled according to the distance between each of the one and the other reading edges and the part of the document. As a result, a discrepancy between the reading results obtained in different reading modes can be prevented. Further, processing of image data corresponding to an image read from an unnecessary part of the document can be prevented.

USP 6,097,852 (Yamamoto) discloses an image forming apparatus in which a sensor 218 reads an image of a document on a document table from one edge in a first reading mode and an image of a document fed by a document feeder 60 from another edge opposite to the one edge in a second reading mode. However, a

Appln. No. 09/888,482
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read start time is not controlled to prevent a discrepancy between the reading results obtained in different reading modes.

USP 6,650,441 (Horigome et al.) discloses a serial scanner in which a bi-directional error correction is performed in forward and backward movement modes. However, this reference is not directed toward enlargement of an image read from a part of the document. Therefore, the aforementioned control of the present invention is not taught or suggested to omit processing of image data corresponding to an image read from an unnecessary part of the document.

In view of the foregoing, independent claims 30 and 37 and claims 31-36 and 38-43 which are dependent thereon are patentable over the cited references under 35 USC 102 as well as 35 USC 103.

CLAIM FEE

The highest number of claims for which payment was previously made in this application is three (3) independent claims and twenty-nine (29) total claims. The application after entry of this Amendment includes five (5) independent claims and forty (40) total claims. Submitted herewith is a Credit Card Authorization Form in the amount of \$950.00 for the presentation of two (2) independent claims and eleven (11) total claims above the highest number of claims for which payment was previously

Appln. No. 09/888,482
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made. If any additional fees are due, or if any overpayment has been made, please charge or credit our Deposit Account No. 06-1378 for such sum.

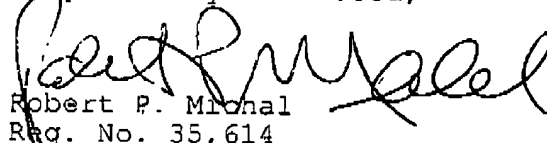
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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to point out where there is support for a contrary view.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,


Robert P. Michal
Reg. No. 35,614

Frishauf, Holtz, Goodman & Chick, P.C.
767 Third Avenue - 25th Floor
New York, New York 10017-2032
Tel. (212) 319-4900
Fax (212) 319-5101
RPM/ms

Encl.: Credit Card Authorization Form in the Amount of \$950.00